

Additional reference

Salvidio, S. 1993. Life history of the European plethodontid salamander *Speleomantes ambrosii* (Amphibia, Caudata). *Herpetological Journal*, 3(2): 55–59.

(12) Robert C. Stebbins

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I strongly support the proposed designation of *Salamandra genei* Temminck & Schlegel, 1838 as the type species of *Hydromantes* Gistel, 1848. *Hydromantes* is a replacement name which, with one exception (Dubois, 1984), has consistently been used during the past 70 years. I may add that in my opinion to place the Californian species of this salamander group in a separate genus *Hydromantoides* will lead to confusion and will obscure the evolutionary relationships between the European and Californian forms.

(13) Support for the application has also been received from Drs Merel J. Cox (695/17 Pracharaj Road, Soi Pracharaj 19, Bangsue, Bangkok 10800, Thailand), Robert A. Thomas (*Society for Environmental Education, P.O. Box 870610, New Orleans, Louisiana 70187-0610, U.S.A.*), Joseph T. Collins (*The University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History, Dyche Hall, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2454, U.S.A.*), James Lazell (*The Conservation Agency, 6 Swinburne Street, Conanicut Island, Rhode Island 02835, U.S.A.*), Robert C. Drewes (*California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118-4599, U.S.A.*), Robert G. Zweifel (*American Museum of Natural History, 79th Street and Central Park West, New York, N.Y. 11024, U.S.A.*) and Paul Chippindale (*Department of Zoology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712-1064, U.S.A.*).

Comments on the proposed conservation of HEMIDACTYLINI Hallowell, 1856

(Amphibia, Caudata)

(Case 2869, BZN 50: 129–132)

(1) Robert G. Webb

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Bonaparte's ([1839] and 1850) names *Mycetoglossus* and MYCETOGLOSSINI probably are unknown to even salamander specialists. Acceptance of the forgotten MYCETOGLOSSINI as a valid name for the now-established HEMIDACTYLINI (and other *Hemidactylum*-based family-group names) would create undue confusion. *Mycetoglossus* has remained unused since its inception and is a junior objective synonym of the valid and long-recognised *Pseudotriton*; suppression of the name (thereby invalidating MYCETOGLOSSINI) is justifiable. Thus, I support this proposal and recommend its approval.

(2) Harold A. Dundee

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I have read the joint proposal by Prof Hobart Smith & Dr David Wake for conserving the name *HEMIDACTYLINI* for a tribe of salamanders. They argue in favor of stability of a name in wide usage over priority.

We should recognise that in the early days of use of our present binominal system of nomenclature, when no code to stabilize nomenclatural practice existed, scientists were few, communication was poor, and publication, hence usage of names, was very limited. That alternative names exist is thus no surprise. Credit should be given to authors whose established names have priority but such overlooked, badly underused names simply have not become accepted. The huge surge of publication that began in the late 19th century produced a vast literature using names such as that recommended by Smith & Wake, and systematists now have *HEMIDACTYLINI* well in memory and use. To regress to the earlier but unused name *MYCETOGLOSSINI* will only retard retrieval of literature needed for examination and citation for current and future studies. Consistency thus enhances the advance of systematic studies.

Only when a balance between alternative names exists would I support priority. Older studies are most often meager in detail and even flawed when compared with the sophistication of modern systematics. Quality studies using later names are where the scientist will find the information for consideration in his endeavors. I therefore firmly support the proposal of Smith & Wake.

(3) Mario Garcia Paris

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Respecto a los puntos solicitados en el caso deseo expresar mi apoto a la propuesta de Smith & Wake en consideración a los principios de estabilidad nomenclatura.

Por otra parte las relaciones filogenéticas entre los miembros de la tribu *HEMIDACTYLINI* no están resueltas y quizá fuese conveniente posponer la solicitud de Smith & Wake hasta que la taxonomía del grupo se considere estabilizada para evitar cambios innecesarios.

(4) Merel J. Cox

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In this case there is a choice between priority and stability in the literature. Certainly priority should prevail if the result were a minimum of confusion and nomenclatural instability. However, Smith & Wake have shown that the prior name has only once been used and that unnecessary confusion would result if priority were followed.

I hope the Commission will seize this opportunity to defuse a potentially confusing situation by approving the proposals put forth. If they do so, they will have served their colleagues well.

(5) Robert A. Thomas

Society for Environmental Education, P.O. Box 870610, New Orleans, Louisiana 70187-0610, U.S.A.

I am writing in support of the application by Smith & Wake to conserve a longstanding name in the field of herpetology in the interest of stability, rather than using an older name that has remained virtually unused since publication. The name